

Valley Manufacturing Group's Lifetime Achievement Award in 2001.

Within the Japanese American community, Dr. Nishimura has dedicated his efforts to groups such as the U.S.-Japan Business Council, Japanese Western U.S. Association, Japanese American Citizen League, Asian Americans for Community Involvement, Asian Law Alliance, and the Yu-Ai Kai Senior Community Center in San Jose.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking Dr. Ko Nishimura for his dedication to excellence in Silicon Valley. Through his tireless efforts, he has created a company grounded in sound principles and has dedicated his valuable time to better his community. I congratulate Dr. Koichi Nishimura on his tremendous achievements and wish him continued success.

TRIBUTE TO KUNI HIRONAKA

HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 26, 2003

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in tribute to Kuni Hironaka, one of the region's greatest champions for protecting and promoting Asian American hiring and promotion policies. Kuni played an instrumental role in securing the inclusion of Asian Americans as a protected minority in the affirmative action hiring and promotion process that is used by all federal civilian and military agencies. As his friends and family gather to celebrate Kuni's wonderful achievements, I ask all of my colleagues to join with me in saluting one of Sacramento's most dedicated citizen leaders.

In 1967, Kuni realized that there were only three categories of protected minorities specified for the affirmative action program at McClellan Air Force Base in Sacramento, these were: black, Hispanic, and women. Kuni was particularly alarmed by the fact that there were no Asian foremen on the maintenance side of the workforce and no Asian supervisors on the management side of the workforce. Many Asian employees failed to rise through the ranks despite their considerable experience and education.

Kuni's decision to explore the issue with the civilian Affirmative Action Officer was greeted with an unsatisfactory response. At the expense of jeopardizing his own employment and promotion future at McClellan Air Force Base, he boldly pursued the matter up the chain of command. In the course of standing for his principles and furthering the interests of Asian Americans in the workforce, Kuni would come to bring about change on a national level.

Kuni was appointed by Phil Hiroshima, President of the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) at the time, to represent the JACL in meetings with top military officials to make the case that the affirmative action category should be expanded not only to include Asian Americans, but also Native Americans as well.

As a result of Kuni's remarkable dedication to the cause and a relentless pursuit of justice, the process of leaving Asian Americans out of the affirmative action hiring and promotion process was eventually examined by the United States Department of Defense. Ultimately, the term "oriental" was changed to

Asian American and Pacific Islanders and McClellan Air Force Base began to promote qualified Asian Americans within the maintenance and civil workforce.

Kuni's decision to challenge the establishment to bring about equal treatment for Asian Americans at McClellan Air Force Base had a resounding impact nationally. In addition to military installations, Asians Americans also came to be recognized as a protected minority by all federal civilian and military agencies. Kuni played a crucial role in paving the road for his and future generations of Asian Americans by breaking down the glass ceiling in the workplace.

Kuni truly represents the real spirit of community service. Throughout his life, Kuni has demonstrated the importance of giving back to his community. Kuni's commitment to helping others and improving his community is an inspiration and example to his fellow citizens.

Mr. Speaker, as Mr. Kuni Hironaka's friends and family gather to celebrate and honor his many contributions, I am honored to pay tribute to one of Sacramento's most honorable citizens. His successes are unparalleled, and it is a great honor for me to have the opportunity to pay tribute to his accomplishments. I ask all my colleagues to join with me in wishing my dear, dear friend Kuni continued success in all his future endeavors.

IN MEMORY OF DARYL THOMPSON

HON. J. DENNIS HASTERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2003

Mr. HASTERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a distinguished constituent; a person who was one of the most active, hard-working and dedicated educators in the State of Illinois—Mr. Daryl Thompson. Sadly, Mr. Thompson passed away on January 14, 2003.

Mr. Thompson began a 37-year career at Oswego High School in 1961. In his early years at Oswego High School, Mr. Thompson taught bookkeeping, business law, general business and typing, in addition to serving as the freshman basketball coach, faculty advisor to the school newspaper, and sponsor of the National Honor Society. And, after earning his certificate in education administration, Mr. Thompson was hired as Oswego High School's Vice Principal, and in 1974 was appointed Principal.

Throughout his years as an educator and administrator in Oswego, Mr. Thompson was the recipient of numerous awards and recognitions. To name a few, Mr. Thompson was awarded the Illinois State Board of Education's "Educator for Excellence in Education," Coca-Cola's Educator of the Month, and was selected by the Oswego Ledger-Sentinel as one of the top 50 people of the 20th Century to make a positive impact on Oswegoland. Furthermore, in 1997, a portion of Illinois Route 71, which passes by Oswego High School property, was named the honorary "Daryl Thompson Highway."

Moreover, Mr. Thompson served as a member of the Illinois High School Association's Legislative Commission for 12 years, served as Director of the Illinois Principals Association and was involved with the Oswego Foundation for Excellence in Education.

Nonetheless, we should also remember Mr. Thompson as a dedicated friend and mentor. He will be remembered for his keen sense of humor, thoughtful guidance and his genuine interest in the well-being of the entire community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Daryl Thompson for his contributions to the Oswego school system and the many students, parents, teachers and fellow administrators whom he touched. His accomplishments deserve our praise and appreciation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2003

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, on February 26, 2003, I was in my congressional district in Rhode Island and consequently I missed two votes.

Had I been here I would have voted: "yea" on rollcall No. 35, and "yea" on rollcall No. 36.

At this time I would ask for unanimous consent that my positions be entered into the RECORD following those votes or in the appropriate portion of the RECORD.

RECOGNITION OF CARLIN OWEN LESLIE

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2003

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Carlin Owen Leslie, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 314, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Carlin has been very active with his troop, participating in summer camp at H. Roe Bartle Scout Reservation and earning the status of warrior in the tribe of Mic-O-Say. During the ten years he has been involved in scouting, he has earned 33 merit badges and is brotherhood member of the Order of the Arrow. Carlin also has been honored for his numerous scouting achievements, earning the rank of senior patrol leader. He was also the first scout from Troop 314 to become a runner in the Order of the Arrow, and now serves as the head of the Troop 314 OA runners.

For his Eagle Scout project, Carlin restored and repainted a train caboose at Fox Hill Elementary School which is used by the school and the Missouri Department of Conservation as an education lab.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Carlin Owen Leslie for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT MANIECE

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2003

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, in commemoration of Black History Month, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the many accomplishments of distinguished African-Americans in Mississippi's Second Congressional District.

Dr. Robert Maniece is presently serving as interim Superintendent for the Quitman County School District. In 1967, Robert Maniece led a number of black students over to then Marks Junior High, a predominately white school. That action led to the integration of the public school in 1971.

In the same year the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King visited Marks, he also visited Mississippi's Cotton Street, the street on which Robert and his family lived. This is the place where Dr. King witnessed families so victimized by poverty that he created the Poor People Campaign. Thereafter, Robert and his family members became heavily involved in this fight to rid the Nation of poverty and want. He has traveled to Washington, D.C. many times to participate in the protests and has continued to fight the fight for those in the greatest need.

In 1993, he became Director of Instruction and Professional Development Coordinator for Quitman Mississippi County Schools. In that position, he has led the District from academic probation to one of the best performing schools in all the Mississippi Delta and the State.

**CLOSING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE IN
EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE**
HON. DIANE E. WATSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2003

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to echo my colleagues' concerns with the prevailing digital divide in African American communities.

As our society continues to make leaps and bounds in the digital information age, too many people are still left behind. It is especially evident in the African American communities, where currently only four out of ten African-Americans have access to internet access—30 points behind the national average. This sharp contrast continues to represent a very substantial and real divide in our society.

But the picture is not all gloomy. In 2001, for instance, internet usage among African Americans increased by 31 percent, as compared to 19 percent among whites. High-tech companies have also begun to focus on technological literacy among our nation's students, such as Microsoft's recent initiative to donate a \$15 million software grant to Historically Black College and University campuses.

Now it's up to this Congress to do more. The Omnibus Appropriations bill we just passed has under-funded many of the pro-

grams aimed to stimulate technological usage and access for more Americans, among them the 21st Century Community Learning Centers, the Community Technology Centers (CTC), and the Technology Opportunities Program (TOP).

We must recommit ourselves to those resources. We must also maintain an open market for competition in the telecommunications industry so that better services can be brought to more communities at lower prices.

I urge my colleagues today to work towards those goals.

**NATIONAL PEACE CORPS DAY,
FEBRUARY 28, 2003**
HON. CHRISTOPHER COX

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2003

Mr. COX. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow is National Peace Corps Day. It is with great pleasure that I send my congratulations to Peace Corps volunteers serving throughout the world as we celebrate the Peace Corps' 42 years of service.

Forty-two years ago, President John F. Kennedy mobilized a generation to work in developing nations around the world in education, community development, agriculture, health care, and public works. Although each volunteer is given a particular role in a community, the most important job is the simple day-to-day interaction each volunteer has with the people of the villages in which they serve.

Since 1961, over 168,000 Americans have volunteered their expertise, time, and energy to foster development and progress in 136 countries. There is no greater symbol of America's generosity than American volunteers living and working in partnership with the people of developing nations to encourage education and opportunity.

As grass-roots ambassadors, Peace Corps volunteers have conveyed the message of freedom and hope to communities in need of help. In doing so, they have strengthened the ties of international friendship and understanding, and have spread the spirit of sharing that is so fundamental to American society.

It is my deepest hope that we continue to recognize and support the Peace Corps' work. By honoring the Peace Corps, we reaffirm our nation's commitment to strengthen freedom and create opportunities around the world.

I am very happy to join with Peace Corps volunteers, past and present, to celebrate National Peace Corps Day 2003.

**WHITE MARLINS AND THE
LONGLINE INDUSTRY**
HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2003

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce this important piece of conservation legislation. In the last session of Congress the Resources Committee worked hard to report

out, my good friend from Maryland and Subcommittee Chairman, Mr. GILCHREST's bill, H.R. 4749, the Magnuson-Stevens Act Amendments of 2002. While I was pleased with many of the provisions, I felt the bycatch section could be strengthened and was successful in getting a provision added to H.R. 4749 addressing the concerns I still have today, with regard to the amount of bycatch of white marlin by the domestic longline industry, which is why I am introducing this bill today.

This bill creates a closed area in the mid-Atlantic that protects marlin from being caught by longlines, when marlin are the most prevalent in those waters. This area consists of the entire Mid-Atlantic Conservation Zone for Highly Migratory Species and closes the upper zone July 15 through September 1, and closes the lower zone from August 15 through October 1. The bill allows for the maximum fishing effort by the longline industry consistent with the conservation.

I continue to be concerned about this species because stocks domestically and internationally have continued to rapidly decline. On September 4, 2001, an environmental group petitioned the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to list Atlantic white marlin under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. On December 19, 2001, NMFS found that the Atlantic white marlin petition presents substantial scientific and commercial information indicating that a listing of Atlantic white marlin may be warranted.

On September 4, 2002, NMFS determined that the species does not warrant being listed at this time. However, the most recent stock assessment indicates the total Atlantic stock population had declined to less than 12 percent of its maximum sustainable yield level; current fishing mortality was estimated to be at least seven times higher than the maximum sustainable level; over fishing had taken place for over three decades and the stock is less productive than previously estimated, with a maximum sustainable yield of less than 1300 metric tons. The bottom line—this species needs an immediate strong conservation measure or it may disappear forever.

I have for many years been very concerned about the dramatic drop in population of this species, and the fact that NMFS even considered listing it confirms my concerns have not been unfounded. I am therefore introducing this piece of legislation as it is critical we continue to make every possible effort to save this species from extinction, which is a distinct possibility should nothing be done to stop the tremendous amount of bycatch.

It is so important we work together to conserve all species, and the dramatic drop in population of white marlin sends a strong message that if we do nothing the potential for other species to be in equal jeopardy is almost guaranteed. Our oceans could well be void of many species we now enjoy and take for granted if we do not take aggressive steps to halt their disappearance now, before it's too late.

It is of the utmost importance that today, more than ever, we work diligently to ensure our world's fisheries populations are maintained at sustainable levels. If we fail to protect them, there are some species that may disappear forever, which would be tragic.